

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**Objective:** *The recommendations of the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot Commission seek to repair the moral, economic, civic and political damage wrought by the violence and discrimination resulting from a conspiracy to re-take control of city, county, and state governments by the Democratic Party's white supremacy campaign.*

**Empowerment:** Acknowledging that the democratic process failed in Wilmington resulting in persistent, unfavorable treatment especially to the African American community, government leadership at all levels will pursue actions that repair the wrong.

1. Acknowledge that the violence of 1898 was a conspiracy of a white elite that used intimidation and force to replace a duly elected local government; that people lost their lives, livelihoods, and were banished from their homes without due process of the law; and that governments at all levels failed to protect its citizens.
2. Establish a Restructuring & Development Authority including local leadership to supervise implementation of a strategic vision funded through an endowment, supported by federal, state, and local governments, as well as media and businesses, especially those which benefited from the consequences of 1898.
3. Support amendment of the federal Voting Rights Act to add New Hanover County.
4. Create a study commission to examine the broader impact of slavery, Jim Crow, and discrimination on the lives of African Americans.

**Economic Redevelopment:** Recognizing the long term economic disadvantages created by banishment, loss of civil service positions, and intimidation, funding from all sources will be directed by the Restructuring & Development Authority to improve economic development opportunities.

5. Support judicial redress to compensate heirs of victims who can prove loss and relationship to victims via intestacy statutes.
6. Provide incentives for business development of areas impacted by the Wilmington Race Riot of 1898 (e.g., establish enterprise zone; create small business incubator with tax incentives to attract minority-owned businesses).
7. Increase minority home ownership in impacted areas (e.g., use eminent domain to acquire vacant commercial properties in Brooklyn and Southside; sell properties to low income residents of those sections with guaranteed mortgages).

**Education:** Educational information about the events of 1898 will be made available to all ages and regions using print, audio-visual media, and the worldwide web.

8. Maintain and update the final report of the Wilmington Race Riot Commission with the North Carolina Office of Archives and History; distribute the published report to appropriate local, state, and national repositories and to individuals who contributed toward the research and development of a more complete record.